

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying**

### **Message Two : Crucial Aspects of Living in the Good Land after Returning from Captivity in Babylon**

#### **I. Overview:**

The history of the people of Israel is a type, typifying the New Testament church. God is faithful in fulfilling His economy and in leading us into His economy. Judah was carried away captive to Babylon because of unfaithfulness; thus, those who returned from captivity were to be faithful to God. For us to be faithful, trustworthy, means to fulfill the stewardship that the Lord has apportioned to us. The returning of the children of Israel to the good land signifies the returning of Christians from division to the ground of the church, the ground of oneness. The ground of the church is constituted of three crucial elements; the first element is the unique oneness of the universal Body of Christ, the second element is the unique ground of the local church being established, the third element is the reality of the Spirit of oneness. God wants man's will to be joined to Him and wants man to be one with Him so that man may express and echo His will back to Him in prayer for His good pleasure. Jabez called on God to enlarge his border. From 2 Chronicles 20:15-22 we can learn to engage in spiritual warfare by praising the Lord. Praise is the highest work carried out by God's children; we need to offer consummate praise to God, the sacrifice of praise to God continually.

#### **II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Expound God using pictures in the Old Testament to show His heart's desire.

God is surely the best writer, and He uses pictures in the first thirty-nine books of His writing in the Bible. The pictures are the types, figures, and shadows in the Old Testament. For instance, Adam is "a type of Him who was to come". Some types are also prophecies. The greatest type in the Old Testament is the history of the people of Israel, who typify God's people on earth today.

B. Explain in 1 Corinthians 1:9 of God's faithfulness.

God is faithful in this matter, but He may not be faithful to provide you a large house or a well-paying job. My point is that God's faithfulness is not according to our natural understanding. We need to realize that in allowing us to have troubles, God is faithful in His purpose to turn us from idols and bring us back to Himself.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the meaning of the names of the Jehovah and God.

God is the common name, while Jehovah is the name of intimacy. God refers to His power, while Jehovah refers to His love. God refers to creation, while Jehovah refers to His intimacy. Genesis 1 does not mention Jehovah, because it covers the creation. Even when chapter 1 mentions man, it is in relation to creation and power. Genesis 2 speaks of God's intimacy with man and His relationship with man; therefore, it mentions Jehovah God.

B. Expound the meaning of the names of the El Shaddai and Jehovah.

Just as El Shaddai is God's name for supply and promise, so Jehovah is His name for existence and fulfillment. As Jehovah, God is the existing God and the fulfilling God. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob died without enjoying the fulfillment of the promise. In their experience God was the all-sufficient One, but He was not Jehovah.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the local ground of the church practicing onenesses of the Body of Christ.

There is one unique Body of Christ in the universe, and there is one unique local church in each locality. This unique oneness is the basic element of the church life. Since the oneness of the Body of Christ is the oneness of the Spirit, the oneness practiced in a local church must be in the move of the Spirit and under the government of the Spirit.

B. Explain the first element of the constitution of the church ground.

The first element of the constitution of the church ground is the unique oneness of the universal Body of Christ, which is called "the oneness of the Spirit". This is the oneness that the Lord prayed for in John 17. It is a oneness of the mingling of the processed Triune God with all the believers in Christ. This oneness is in the name of the Father, denoting the Father's person, in which is the Father's life.

Day 4 —

A. Expound God confirmed His promise by making a covenant with Abraham through Christ. Abraham believed in the Lord for that promise concerning the seed. The promise concerning the land is affirmatively made by God in Genesis 15:7, but Abraham lacked faith to believe in God for this promise concerning the land. Because Abraham found it difficult to believe in God regarding the promise of the land, God was forced to make a covenant with him. In Genesis 15:9-21, that God confirmed His promise by making a covenant with Abraham through Christ.

B. Explain the types of the three cattle.

The three cattle, which were cut and killed, are types of the crucified Christ. The crucified Christ was the One who became flesh, living on earth in His humanity. The Lamb of God was the One who was the Word of God becoming flesh. Thus, the three cattle in Genesis 15 should signify Christ in His humanity being crucified for us.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the prayer of Jabez in 1 Chronicles 4:10.

In 1 Chronicles 4:10 we have a prayer of Jabez, who called on the God of Israel saying, Oh that You would richly bless me and enlarge my border, and that Your hand would be with me, and that You would so keep me from evil that it would not grieve me!" God caused what Jabez had requested to come to pass. May all of us would have such a prayer to cause God enlarge the border of the enjoyment of the good land, the border of Christ.

B. Explain all spiritual work consisting of four steps.

All spiritual work consists of four steps. In the first step, God intends to do something; there is God's will. In the second step, He reveals this will to His children through the Spirit. In the third step, God's children return His will back to Him through prayer. As a result God will accomplish His work in the fourth step.

Day 6 —

A. Expound that praise is the highest work carried out by God's children.

We can say that the highest expression of a saint's spiritual life is his praise to God. God's throne is the highest point in the universe, yet He sits "enthroned upon the praises of Israel." God's name and even God Himself are exalted through praise. The Christian life soars through praises. To praise is to transcend everything to touch the Lord.

B. Describe how Jehoshaphat to experience the spiritual victory in 2 Chronicles 20.

Jehoshaphat was a revived king and a God-fearing person. He told Judah to believe in God. He appointed singers to sing praises to Jehovah. He also asked these ones to praise the beauty of holiness and to walk out before the army. And when they began to shout in song and to praise, Jehovah set ambushes for the enemies.

### III. Conclusion:

In order to realize the intrinsic significance of this message, we need to know two things in 1 and 2 Chronicles. First, 1 and 2 Chronicles were written after the nation of Jew returned to the good land from Babylon. Therefore, how to live in the ground of oneness after returning from the captives to the good land? Second, the author of 1 and 2 Chronicles may have been Ezra, based on the experience through his revelation. Our prayer is not to ask God to change His mind, but to pray out God's will. We should pray by means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time to set a prayer network, so that the will of God may be carried out through in every way. Prayer must pay attention to three aspects: to whom to pray, for whom to pray, and against whom to pray. All prayer should carry out the will of God, that man may gain, and that Satan may lose.